

Carlos Marroquin
Montgomery College Alum
Testimony
Montgomery County Council
FY24 Budget Hearing
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Good evening members of the County Council. I appreciate your time and am honored to speak with you.

My name is Carlos Marroquin and I am a Montgomery College alum.

I am also a former Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) teacher, a current education professor at Montgomery College, and a Silver Spring resident.

Montgomery College has played such an important role in my life. I was raised a lot of my life in Montgomery County, more specifically Silver Spring. I attended Montgomery County Public Schools as a student and graduated from Montgomery Blair High School. During my time as a student in MCPS, I struggled a little bit to find success. Throughout my whole public-school experience, I wanted to find a teacher that I could relate to—a teacher who looked like me and had a similar upbringing. Unfortunately, while I had many amazing teachers, I never found the teacher I was looking for. This inspired me to want to become a teacher so I could motivate and work with students who were like me.

I wasn't sure how I would become a teacher, but I knew I needed a college degree. As the first in my family to go to college, I did not have a lot of guidance on how to accomplish my dream. I knew I needed an affordable option. The one piece of advice I was given was to apply to Montgomery College.

So, I woke up early one morning and went to the MC admissions office, and applied to be a student at MC. I did not know it then, but that would be one of the best decisions I ever made in my life.

Montgomery College was the place where I became a stronger student. I was allowed to take academic risks I had never even considered. I wasn't a perfect student. In fact, I failed quite a bit. But I was able to find the support I needed to get through my failures and eventually find success.

Importantly, it was at MC where I finally found that teacher I had searched for my whole life—a professor who looked like me. She may not have known it, but I decided she was to be my mentor.

With its affordable tuition, quality facilities, and great faculty, Montgomery College prepared me for my four-year institution, and for the field of education. I chose to become an MCPS teacher, where I served for eight years at Greencastle Elementary School in Silver Spring teaching 3rd and 5th grade students. This year, I joined Montgomery College as a full-time faculty member for the School of Education, where I recruit, inspire, and prepare future MCPS teachers.

I am proud to be an MC alum, and I am honored to ask for your continued support for Montgomery College.

Please support the College's budget requests. With your support, we can continue to educate first-generation college students like me—and future MCPS teachers.

Thank you.